

2012 Tribal Wildlife Grants

Project Summaries for Proposals

This data is taken directly from the 'program summary' submitted by each tribe.

Coeur d' Alene Tribe

\$104,713

Assessing Consumptive Impact of Northern Pike and Smallmouth Bass on Westslope Cutthroat Trout in Coeur d' Alene Lake, Idaho

The Fisheries Program of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe is currently cooperating with the University of Idaho to fund a graduate student, over the period from June 2011 to December 2013, to study the potential impact of non-native northern pike and smallmouth bass on native adfluvial westslope cutthroat trout in Lake Coeur d'Alene in northern Idaho. This study was prompted by monitoring efforts that have demonstrated in-lake juvenile cutthroat trout survival rates that are markedly lower than those reported in other similar systems, and is deemed essential to understand whether these introduced piscivores are inhibiting the recovery of cutthroat trout in the Coeur d'Alene Basin.

The fundamental objective of the study is to estimate the consumption of cutthroat trout by northern pike and smallmouth bass, and will be accomplished by conducting multiple sampling events throughout the project period to analyze the population demographics and dietary habits of both piscivores, and incorporating that information into bio-energetic models. Funding that is being requested under this grant would support data collection activities (e.g., field sampling, laboratory analyses), and the matriculation of the graduate student until project completion. The benefits anticipated from this project include a better understanding of the interaction between introduced fish species and culturally-important, native fish species in Lake Coeur d'Alene. By increasing the understanding of fish assemblage dynamics in the lake, the Coeur d'Alene Tribe will become better equipped with the information necessary to more effectively manage fish communities in Lake Coeur d'Alene. Contingent on the findings from the study, results can be used to evaluate the prospects for various management techniques to increase cutthroat trout survival and improve the trajectory of population recovery toward sustainable and traditionally harvestable levels.

Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation

\$199,673

Chehalis River Lamprey Study

The Chehalis River Lamprey Study will be conducted over a two year period and provide crucial information about the Pacific Lamprey, a culturally significant fish to the people of the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation. Data will be collected over a two year period by staff at several locations including the Black River, Chehalis River, Independence Creek, Garrard Creek and Rainbow Falls. The goal of the project is to preserve the Pacific Lamprey for future generations of the Chehalis people. Objectives to achieve this goal are to determine the areas of critical spawning habitat necessary for the continuation of species survival, and to use the data to develop a management plan for lamprey that will implement actions known to benefit Pacific lampreys, minimize threats to their existence, and improve understanding of them in order to recover their abundance and distribution.

Confederated Tribes of the Colville Indian Reservation

\$191,000

Gray Wolf Management Project

Upon receiving funding, the Colville Tribe's Fish and Wildlife Department intends to achieve the following objectives with this project beginning in fiscal year 2012.

- developing the Colville Confederated Tribes (CCT) "Gray Wolf Management Plan"
- modeling predicted rendezvous sites using Arcmap GIS to focus surveying effort
- deploying remote cameras and scent lures at predicted rendezvous sites and or areas with repeated visual or auditory reports of wolf presence on the Colville Reservation and "North Half" Reservation
- collection of wolf scat along roads and trails to confirm DNA to be 100% gray wolf after tracks or photos are observed
- genetic analysis of wolf DNA collected on the Colville Reservation and "North Half" Reservation, and comparison to DNA from Idaho, Montana and B.C. Canada wolves in order to determine gray wolf movements and dispersal patterns
- Trapping and collaring alpha male, alpha female, and subordinate adult wolves in order to obtain DNA and deploy GPS collars
- Home range analysis and identification of denning and rendezvous sites through data obtained from deployed GPS collars
- Public outreach and education regarding the truths and myths surrounding the behavioral ecology of gray wolves.

Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation

\$180,899

Yakama Nation Enhancing Meadow Resilience Project

A multi-year assessment of montane meadows on the Yakama Reservation (initiated under TWG in 2007 and continued under the Environmental Protection Agency's Wetland Program Development Grant in 2008-2011), has documented high concentrations of ecologically and culturally important wildlife and plant species. The assessments also found that many meadows have highly impaired functioning, and identified and documented specific impacts and threats. Over 350 of the 860 meadow sites on the Reservation have been assessed, providing a strong foundation to develop integrated management responses to specific concerns as well as watershed-scale and forest-scale concerns.

This project proposes to utilize this extensive knowledge base and Yakama Nation staff expertise to improve meadow function and to prioritize important meadow sites for protection and restoration. The first thrust of this project is restoring a low-elevation meadow complex known as Camas Patch, which supports culturally valuable food plants as well as populations of two state-listed plant species. We have identified several stressors impairing meadow functioning in Camas Patch. Now climate change is predicted to result in drier summer conditions in our region. This could be a significant additional stressor on this meadow complex, given its location in the fairly dry landscape near the forest fringe. Although wet meadow habitats are particularly vulnerable to the anticipated changes in climate, protecting and restoring them represents an important tool in our response. Restoring the water-holding capacity of these areas helps to store spring snowmelts, which maintains longer hydroperiods, and also provides a longer release of cool water in warm summer months.

A second thrust of this project is therefore to consider potential climate change effects on meadow systems throughout the Reservation. We propose to identify meadows sites where restoration and protection is most important in the face of climate change, based on factors such as site water holding

capacity, position in the watershed, and occurrence of culturally important resources. This information will assist us in responding most effectively to the drier conditions predicted for the East Cascades. Specific project tasks for restoration of the Camas Patch complex are: 1) complete engineering work necessary for restoration of hydrology in the Camas Patch complex; 2) exclude and remove grazers from the complex; 3) remove encroaching conifers; 4) monitor effectiveness of restoration activities by evaluating the response of hydrology, vegetation, and insects. Specific tasks proposed to respond to climate change effects on meadows are: 1) identify meadows of culturally important and sensitive species, and connectivity corridors contributing to persistence of the species; 2) identification of meadow sites with the greatest potential benefit to watershed hydrology; and 3) prioritize restoration and protection activities based on identified high-value sites.

Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians **\$200,000**
Lamprey Conservation Project in the Umpqua Basin

The Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians is seeking funds in the amount of \$200,000 from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Tribal Wildlife Grant program to complete the following objectives within two years:

- Hire coordinator and convene a multi-agency Umpqua Basin Lamprey Workgroup.
- Work on mapping distribution, habitat, spawning, barriers, and restoration opportunities.
- Research smallmouth bass predation on lampreys in the Umpqua Basin
- Offer workshops to Tribal members and public on lampreys, lamprey identification and restoration.
- Monitor projects that affect lamprey.
- Visit with other Tribes in the region to collect information on harvest and research.

Cowlitz Indian Tribe **\$200,000**
Big Meadows Restoration Project

The Cowlitz Indian Tribe is proposing to continue to work toward establishing a new sub-population of the federally endangered species Columbia white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus* ssp. *Leucurus*) (CWTD), near Cottonwood Island in the lower Columbia River. This proposed subpopulation is within the historic range of the species, and within the ancestral lands of the Tribe.

CWTD will be captured using chemical immobilization and will be translocated to Cottonwood Island using a vehicle and boat. CWTD have been moved to Cottonwood (Washington State), Crims (Oregon State), Fisher (Washington State), Lord (Oregon State) Islands and nearby lands. The selection of Cottonwood Island as a CWTD release site by the 1983 CWTD Recovery Plan, The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) channel deepening Environmental Impact Statement and the Tribe's previous CWTD translocation all serve to validate the choice of placing CWTD on this island. Cottonwood Island's position as the most upriver island where a limited number of CWTD have been moved makes an additional translocation the next logical step in extending the effective range of the CWTD.

The Tribe's proposed project will directly increase the likelihood of successful expansion of CWTD subpopulations within the lower Columbia River watershed, which will likely lead to a more abundant and stable population. This effort will also enhance the Tribe's ability to participate effectively in the management of CWTD; build the capacity of the Tribe's Natural Resources Department, and enhance its

stature among professional organizations and agencies of the region. Just as important, the project will increase regional awareness of the cultural significance of the CWTD to the Cowlitz People.

The owners of Cottonwood Island have given permission for CWTD translocations to occur. This proposal has been prepared as a result of intense consultation with CWTD wildlife biologists from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife; and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Just prior to submission of this proposal the Tribe has learned that USFWS refuge personnel are considering performing CWTD translocation to Cottonwood Island in the winter of 2013/2014. Our tribal proposal is planned to occur prior to this USFWS led effort., If all goes as planned we will move CWTD in the early fall of 2012 and utilize a soft release to minimize mortality. If we run into unanticipated difficulties the latest of Tribe's CWTD translocation would take place would be the early fall of 2013. The Tribe has other pending grant proposals which are aimed at assessing potential translocation sites and their associated habitat. If other better suited contingency sites are identified further upriver tribal staff may move to contingency release sites further upriver with the explicit approval of USFWS personnel. The Tribe has made some initial contacts with likely landowners upriver in likely contingency release sites.

Kalispel Tribe

\$200,000

Big Meadows Restoration Project

The Kalispel Tribe of Indians plans to restore, enhance and protect 650 acres of meadow floodplain and stream channel habitat along Goose Creek in Bonner County of Idaho State for the benefit of fish and wildlife. This effort will benefit the severely diminished population of westslope cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki lewisi*), provide critical habitat for a variety of wildlife species, and fulfill the primary fisheries goal of the Kalispel Tribe Fish and Wildlife Management Plan; Protect, enhance, and restore native fish populations to maintain stable, viable levels, to ensure long term, self-sustaining persistence, and to provide ecological, cultural, subsistence, and sociological benefits.

In support of the Kalispel Resident Fish Project which focuses on native fish, and the Kalispel Non-Native Fish Suppression Project which focuses on non-native eradication, and other Tribal initiatives, the Kalispel Tribe is embarking on a multi-phase restoration effort for Goose Creek. This effort involving channel reconstruction, habitat restoration, reclamation of native fisheries, and re-establishment of plant communities, will result in aquatic and terrestrial habitat improvements benefitting numerous native species.

Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe

\$199,970

**Survival of black-tailed deer on Washington's Olympic Peninsula:
An examination of a declining population**

Columbian black-tailed deer (*Odocoileus hemionus columbianus*) are of immense cultural and traditional importance to the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, providing sustenance to tribal members, a link to historic hunting grounds, and food and regalia for ceremonial purposes. The deer population on the north Olympic Peninsula, however, appears to be in decline. Despite their importance, we know very little about deer on one of the tribe's primary hunting grounds, the Pysht Game Management Unit (GMU). We propose a study to look at fawn and buck mortality sources and rates so that the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, other regional tribes, and the state of Washington can more effectively manage harvest of this important game species while also reversing any population declines and restoring the population to previous levels. Further, one of the tribe's primary wildlife management objectives is to gather baseline

information on the status of the deer population so that it can incorporate longer-term monitoring strategies (i.e., greater than 20 years) into a comprehensive Wildlife Management Plan, thus ensuring the long-term viability of the population. If funded, we would examine several key questions about deer on the north Olympic Peninsula, specifically: what are the rates and sources of fawn mortality?; is there a seasonal pattern of fawn mortality?; what is the incidence of hair-loss syndrome on the Pysht GMU?; what are the spring and fall compositions of the deer population (i.e., doe:fawn and doe:buck ratios)?; what mortality factors are bucks on the Pysht GMU subject to, and what percentage of mortality is attributed to harvest versus other natural factors? To answer these questions, we propose to conduct ground-based deer composition surveys during both spring and fall of each project year and to capture and radio-tag up to 20 bucks and 40 fawns over the course of two years. We will monitor tagged animals daily to document sources and rates of mortality. Our study will commence in August, 2012 and conclude in May, 2015. Data collected during this study will be used by both the tribe and state to restore losses to the population, to better regulate harvest, and to develop long-term monitoring strategies, thus ensuring the subsistence of the culturally significant black-tailed deer population for generations to come. Further, if funded, this project would contribute greatly to tribal self-sufficiency in wildlife management by providing the necessary resources to conduct a high-priority research project, the results of which would be used to update the tribe's Hunting Ordinance, maintain annual harvest regulations, and continue discussions on a regional level with both the state and surrounding tribes about harvest management. Finally, this project builds upon two previous Tribal Wildlife Grants (Roosevelt elk and river otters/American dipper) to contribute to the tribe's broader objective of developing a comprehensive Wildlife Management Plan.

Nooksack Indian Tribe

\$156,900

South Fork Nooksack Forest Road Abandonment Project

The Nooksack Natural Resources Department proposes to implement a road abandonment project to reduce the threats of landslides in support of Nooksack River basin (WRIA 1) salmon recovery. This action has been prioritized for the South Fork Nooksack in the WRIA 1 Salmonid Recovery Plan and the subsequent restoration strategies as important for recovery of ESA-listed fish stocks including Nooksack native early Chinook, bulltrout, and steelhead, which are all important to the Nooksack Tribe. The project is a direct result of the *South Fork Nooksack Watershed Orphan Road Assessment*, which was funded by the WRIA 1 Salmon Recovery Board, with the intent of building the capacity within the Nooksack Watershed to address the impacts of forest roads on salmon habitat. The South Fork Nooksack Forest Road Abandonment Project seeks to build the capacity of the Nooksack Tribe's Natural Resources Department to address forest roads, form partnerships between the tribe and forest landowners, and abandon nearly 4.7 miles of "orphaned" forest roads (those not covered by State Forest Practice Rules) over two construction seasons (2012 – 2013). The project also includes permitting, construction oversight, training and baseline data collection for project monitoring that will continue past the grant period. This project not only addresses impacts to treaty-protected harvest rights, but also helps build the Nooksack Tribe's technical ability to further protect critical habitat and defend these rights.

Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe

\$199,389

Duckabush Elk Home Range, Herd Structure and Habitat Assessment Project

The Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe (PGST) is seeking funding to build our Tribe's capacity to manage the Duckabush elk herd, the most economically and culturally important wildlife resource in our traditional hunting area. A focused research, monitoring, and enforcement effort is needed to reduce uncertainty in our knowledge of the herd's behavior, population trends, and response to hunting pressure. New knowledge obtained from this effort will allow us to improve our hunting regulations and ultimately

ensure sustained opportunities for subsistence and ceremonial elk harvest by Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribal hunters.

PGST will delineate the home range of the elk herd, model population growth, determine the impact of hunting, and improve hunting ordinances. We will monitor the elk herds year-round movements using Global Positioning System (GPS) tracking, conduct censuses, and monitor tribal and non-tribal harvest. In addition, we will map the habitat in the home range, estimate the effectiveness of the habitat, and test the validity of our habitat assessment methods. To build enforcement infrastructure, PGST will construct a geographic database of to assist in monitoring and regulating big game harvest.

The project will run from September 2012 to September 2014. Project direction and oversight, enforcement, harvest monitoring and regulation, and ordinance development will be conducted in-house by PGST using existing funds. Because PGST does not have an in-house wildlife research program, most of the field research, data analysis, and reporting will be conducted by the professional wildlife staff of the Point No Point Treaty Council as a sub-grantee. The total cost of this project will be \$329,302 of which the Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe will contribute \$113,328 and the Point No Point Treaty Council will contribute \$16,585. The request for funds from the Tribal Wildlife Grant program is \$199,389.

Puyallup Tribe of Indians

\$198,367

South Rainier Elk Herd Habitat Enhancement and Population Monitoring Project

With the support of the Medicine Creek Treaty Tribes, the Puyallup Tribe of Indians seek funding to continue necessary elk management activities and to conduct specific habitat improvement projects in the critical winter and summer habitat range of the South Rainier Elk Herd. This project proposes two main elements that are the foundation for maintaining sustainable elk populations for years to come. The first element is elk management activities that include conducting spring and fall elk surveys for annual herd composition and herd size estimates. The Tribe will be utilizing the sightability model that was previously developed by the Puyallup tribe. The model is being used as a reliable management tool for predicting herd composition and size. Also contributing the continued research efforts, the Puyallup Tribe will continue to collect and analyze data on the remaining radio-collared elk to gather valuable information on annual cow elk mortality/survival to aid in stabilizing and increasing the elk herd size.

The second major element of this proposal is elk habitat enhancement on winter and summer range. In addition to the first two phases of habitat improvements (pre-commercial thinning) on the herd’s critical winter and summer range where we worked in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service to improve forage on 600 acres of critical elk range, we are now proposing to compliment our previous efforts with additional thinning to improve habitat of the same nature within the herds critical range. Thinning projects such as the one proposed here have been extremely successful in improving forage quality and quantity for elk and many other wildlife species. Preliminary site selection is under way and a map of the potential sites with associated data has been provided with this proposal, as well as a discussion of the next step to be taken. Therefore, we must acquire much needed funds to conduct wide spaced pre-commercial thinning and maintain previously thinned units on up to 307 acres.

Quinault Indian Nation

\$192,056

Developing a Quinault Big Game Management Plan

The Quinault Indian Nation (QIN), located on a 208,000-acre timbered Reservation on the Olympic Peninsula in Washington, will develop a comprehensive, science-based big game management plan addressing populations, behaviors and habitats of elk, deer, bears and cougars. The two-year project will generate data and analyze information so that informed decisions can be made by the tribe concerning the management of complex natural resources. Data also may be used for long-term studies of the impacts of wolf recolonization to the region.

The project will result in:

- A big game management plan for the Quinault Indian Reservation
- Healthy, sustainable populations of big game species on the Reservation
- Big game and habitat maps to help prioritize QIN resources
- Correlations to support long-term big game population modeling and predictions
- Educational programs to involve tribal youth in natural resource management
- Recommendations regarding hunting regulations, if necessary
- Data to be incorporated into the QIN's 10-year Forest Management Plan

The proposed project will help meet the ongoing challenges of establishing a sustainable ecosystem, facilitation the protection of treaty resources, meeting the human needs of the tribe and promoting tribal capacity-building through education in natural resource management.

Shoshone Bannock Tribes – Fort Hall Reservation

\$197,246

Sage Grouse Habitat Program

The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes (Tribes) are submitting a grant proposal for \$197,246 from United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), under the Tribal Wildlife Grant (TWG) program. The Sage Grouse Habitat Program (Proposal) will identify baseline conditions for reservation Sage Grouse habitat, inventory and assess identified critical Sage Grouse habitat, and develop a conservation based management plan for Sage Grouse on the reservation in Southeast Idaho. Sage Grouse were evaluated by the FWS for listing as a threatened species but were found to be warranted but precluded from listing due to higher priority species and numerous unanswered questions. As such, an interagency effort to protect Sage Grouse and their habitat began in earnest.

Sage Grouse is a significant species in the Shoshone and Bannock cultures. The tangible significance of sage grouse is illustrated in Tribal traditional dance, subsistence hunting and ceremonial songs. The Chicken Dance is a traditional dance that honors the sage grouse. This traditional dance imitates the dance the grouse performs during the mating season. The dancers' regalia reflect the image of the grouse in the headdress, bustle and whistle. The grouse is also a traditional subsistence resource and is a part of the traditional diet of the Shoshone Bannock Tribes. On a broad cultural scale the sage grouse's spiritual significance is to function as a part of the web of life and play an important role in maintaining balance of life.

The Fort Hall Reservation, the permanent home of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, is located in southeast Idaho, along the Snake River. The Reservation is bordered on the north and northwest by the Snake and Blackfoot Rivers and on the south by the city of Pocatello. The Reservation covers approximately 544,000 acres in Bingham, Bannock, Caribou and Power Counties. The Reservation contains a wide variety of river bottoms, rolling hills, high plateaus, and 10,000 foot mountain peaks; all drained by more than twenty streams. The Reservation provides approximately 160,000 acres of agricultural lands; 260,000 acres of grazing lands, and 62,000 acres of forested lands. Most pertinent to this submission, the

Reservation maintains large areas of shrub-steppe habitats that support a myriad of wildlife species; including Sage Grouse.

In southeast Idaho there has been a significant loss of critical Sage Grouse habitat, mainly due to anthropogenic causes; which has had an adverse effect on total sage grouse populations. Aerial imagery taken from the 1970's and compared with images from the late 1990's suggests that almost 70% of the available sage brush habitat has been converted to agricultural developments; and that it had an adverse relationship with overall sage grouse populations. A separate inventory of breeding males in the Snake River Plain Management Zone showed a sharp decline through 2007, as illustrated in the graph below.

Snake River Plain Management Zone population trend estimate (Source: Garton et al. 2010)

The reservation has known populations of Sage Grouse, but their utilization of shrub-steppe habitat is undocumented in the latest BLM-driven interagency habitat mapping exercise. The overall condition of the habitat around these known groups of Sage Grouse will require an inventory and assessment. To accommodate this inventory and assessment, select areas of Reservation sage brush communities, as referenced by the attached maps, will be evaluated by the Tribes' Wildlife Program and an expert subcontractor. It is critical that a thorough understanding of the condition of shrub-steppe habitat on the reservation precede discussions about management recommendations. Using standard habitat inventory and assessment techniques for Sage Grouse, described in detail below, the Proposal would evaluate the current condition of Sage Grouse habitat and from that assessment the Fish and Wildlife Department will develop a conservation based management plan.

The Tribes' Fish and Wildlife Department is the primary manager of all fish and wildlife resources within the exterior boundaries of the Reservation and an active co-manager for fish and wildlife resources off-reservation. The Fish and Wildlife Department has coordinated with the US Fish and Wildlife Service on a number of successful projects, including a Trumpeter Swan program on the Fort Hall Bottoms. In addition, the Wildlife program continues to participate in the regional discussions to plan conservation efforts for Sage Grouse throughout Idaho. The FWS Tribal Wildlife Grant would provide necessary funding for the Tribes to protect, preserve and enhance this significant species contributing to the overall recovery effort for Sage Grouse across their historic range.

Skokomish Indian Tribe

\$194,283

Cougar Population and Predation Effects on Elk in the SE Olympic Peninsula

The Skokomish Natural Resources Department aspires to protect the Skokomish Treaty rights through effective management that will preserve, enhance and restore the natural and cultural resources of the Tribe and will perpetuate the Tribal fish, wildlife and other natural resources for this and future generations. To this end, it would be beneficial to conduct a cougar study to provide valuable information about the relationships the predators have with elk and deer in the area. The elk herds in GMU 636, 621 and 651 have shown reported declines since the 1970s. The Skokomish wildlife staff will deploy up to 15 VHF or GPS collars on elk and up to 10 GPS collars on cougars in the GMUs 636, 621 and 651 and conduct biannual composition flights for elk. Investigation of cougar kill sites will provide baseline data on prey selection and kill rates of cougars, as well as differences of male versus female cougars and differences among age classes of cougars. Having both elk herds and nearby cougars collared will provide insight as to how often cougars and elk interact and how often that interaction results in elk mortality or other effects on the herds. This study addresses priorities outlined in the Skokomish Wildlife Management Plan.

Spokane Tribe of Indians**\$151,314****Habitat Selection of Rocky Mountain Elk on the Spokane Indian Reservation**

The Spokane Tribe of Indians plans to conduct a three year research project to quantify habitat selection, home range size, and survival of the Rocky Mountain (*Cervus elaphus*) elk population inhabiting the Spokane Indian Reservation. This project will use ‘store on board’ GPS radio collar technology to collect location information on 30 female elk collared on the Spokane Indian Reservation. These locations will facilitate the development of resource selection functions describing the relative probability of use across the Spokane Reservation. Radio collar locations will also be used to quantify individual home range size and survival rates. This information will assist the Spokane Tribe in completing a comprehensive elk management plan allowing for more informed management decisions regarding this high priority resource.

Squaxin Island Tribe**\$73,135****Midway Creek Restoration Monitoring Project**

The Squaxin Island Tribe (SIT) is a leading partner in restoring and protecting aquatic and fish resources in the Goldsborough Creek Basin in Mason County, WA. SIT and local partners have developed a multi-faceted, concerted approach to restoring and conserving fish habitat in the Basin. Goldsborough Creek represents an exceptional opportunity for Coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) recovery. Returning spawners and outmigrating juvenile populations continue to plummet everywhere around Puget Sound except in Goldsborough Creek. This is the result of the removal of a blocking dam at RM 2.2 in 2001 which opened 25 miles of prime fish habitat to spawning and rearing.

Coho benefit tremendously from the fact that the Goldsborough basin is relatively undeveloped. Almost all impervious surface is located along the lower two miles of stream channel inside the Shelton city limits and much of the basin is managed as industrial timberlands which provide extensive forest cover. On the majority of those lands, riparian and in-stream ecological functions are being restored and protected through a landmark Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)/TMDL Technical Report & Implementation Plan. It was developed in 2000 between Green Diamond (formerly Simpson Timber Co.), the state Department of Ecology, NOAA Fisheries (formerly NMFS) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The working waterfront is the subject of a Puget Sound Initiative sediment investigation.

Many limiting factors still persist as obstacles to full salmon recovery in the watershed. Fish passage barriers, a lack of key habitat, and disconnected off-channel habitat are examples of pervasive problems on Goldsborough Creek and its tributaries. Correcting these problems has become a focal point of many partners in the region and several dozen priority restoration projects have been initiated through several project development efforts in the last decade. One such project is the Midway Creek Fish Barrier Removal Project, sponsored by the South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group. Midway Creek is a major tributary to the Middle Goldsborough segment, the number one restoration priority area of Goldsborough Creek. Due to the presence of dual, fullblocking culverts at the confluence of Midway and Goldsborough Creeks, no salmon have been able to utilize Midway Creek for several decades – the entire tributary is blocked from fish passage. With support from SIT, Simpson Lumber, and Green Diamond resource Company, SPSSEG will implement the removal of these fish barriers and restore fish passage to Midway Creek, opening up to one mile of salmon rearing habitat. Potential habitat in Midway Creek includes a large series of beaver pond wetlands, prime juvenile rearing habitat, and several areas with spawning gravel.

Due to the fact that the entire length of Midway Creek is fully blocked from fish passage, this presents a unique opportunity to monitor the use of the creek by juvenile and adult salmon after the restoration of fish passage. Initial fish use monitoring in the creek will provide valuable data pertinent to the restoration project itself as well as for the Tribe's broader salmon monitoring in the Goldsborough basin. This first round of monitoring will help determine what life stages of salmonids are utilizing Midway Creek, how the creek morphology changes with the restoration, and provide preliminary data that will drive future monitoring designs. Additionally, the monitoring process will provide valuable insight into how to calibrate the protocols for planned future restoration of similar tributaries (a similar restoration is planned on the neighboring Like's Creek).

This grant would allow the coordination and implementation of the monitoring and provide funding for the supplies, equipment and staff to conduct monitoring of Midway Creek restoration.

Swinomish Indian Tribal Community **\$200,000**
Kukutali Preserve Habitat Research and Conservation Management Plan

The Swinomish Indian Tribal Community proposes to inventory, manage, protect, and enhance wildlife and habitat resources on the 118 acres of tidelands, nearshore, and old growth forests of Kukutali Preserve on the Swinomish Reservation for the benefit of fish and wildlife and their habitats that are of particular cultural significance to the Swinomish people. This project has been prioritized in response to the need to develop a long-term, 50 year management plan for the Kukutali Preserve by the Tribe and Washington State Parks, co-owners and managers of the Preserve.

This proposed one-year project will develop a needed baseline inventory and assessment of wildlife and habitat resources, and with this information, create a conservation management plan providing a scientific basis for management decisions-making to protect the sustainability of resources of Kukutali Preserve. This project will also provide restoration project design for the benefit of the threatened Skagit Chinook salmon by providing protection to critical rearing habitat and a restoration plan, fulfilling a key recommended component outlined in the *Skagit Chinook Recovery Plan 2005*.

The inventory would identify baseline wildlife and habitat conditions including surveys of the uplands and tidelands. Results of the surveys and monitoring will be used to develop a conservation management plan that will be a key element of a permanent Kukutali Preserve Master Management Plan (ensuring long-term protection and benefits to rare and at-risk species and protect habitat conditions), design a restoration project to enhance conditions at Kiket Lagoon within the Preserve, and provide educational information and examples to educate tribal members and public visitors about fish and wildlife and their habitats.

Reviewers Note:

The Tulalip Tribe submitted three project proposals
Total combined Federal request \$199,211.

This amount is below the \$200,000 cap
and the Tribe may be eligible for award of all three projects
– if they happen to score and rank accordingly.

Tulalip Tribes of Washington (004)

\$100,668

Monitoring fish and water resources on the Tulalip Tribes Indian Reservation, Usual and Accustomed (U&A) lands and marine waters of the Pacific Northwest

This proposal seeks FY2012 TWG funding for a fisheries, water resources, and habitat monitoring project. Funding previously received from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for an FY2010 TWG award, along with several other sources of funding, continues to provide crucial monies to continue to collect stock assessment samples and operate the Tulalip Stock Assessment Laboratory and five stream gauges on the Tulalip Reservation. That funding will carry us through calendar year 2011 and into the first couple months of 2012, but funding is needed for the remainder of 2012 (which will still be augmented with additional funds from other sources). Our FY2012 proposal is greatly reduced from the FY2010 amount that was awarded but without this funding, we will not have additional alternative funding sources from what we project now to remain operational in 2012 for this critically needed work, so we appreciate this valuable opportunity to apply for these 2012 funds. This proposal has two components:

1) Part I seeks partial funding needed in 2012 for two Tribal employees to operate the Tulalip Tribes' Stock Assessment Laboratory (TSAL), located on the Tulalip Indian Reservation, and for temporary sample collections. Laboratory operations funding is needed to cover five months (880 hours) in calendar year 2012 for a Tribal Laboratory Manager to operate TSAL and ~7.5 months (1,280 hours) for a Laboratory Technician to conduct laboratory analyses and field sample collections during 2012.

2) Part II seeks partial funding to cover half of the Tulalip cost share of a one-year subcontract between the Tulalip Tribes and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to continue cost-sharing funding for five stream gauges needed for essential surface water monitoring on the three primary streams on the Tulalip Indian Reservation, also through calendar year 2012. The total Tulalip share is \$49,970 (see letter from the USGS re: cooperative streamflow gauging program); half of which will be paid by Tulalip. The other half, \$24,985, is included in this request. The USGS and Tulalip shares for these stream gauges are not included in any costsharing in this request.

Funding this proposal is greatly helping to restore losses to fish, wildlife, and habitat resources by providing the most basic and essential measures of fish, water and critical habitat; measures of fish abundance, origin and water quantity. Both components of this monitoring proposal have interacting, interdependent effects on each other and provide enormous benefits to fish, wildlife, plants, their habitats, the people of the Tulalip Tribes and the general public.

Tulalip Tribes of Washington (017)

\$49,601

Native Prairie Creation on the Tulalip Reservation

The Tulalip Tribes of Western Washington plans to create, maintain, and protect 10 acres of prairie habitat on the Tulalip Tribe's Reservation for the benefit of wildlife, native ecosystem diversity and tribal member ethno-botanical education and use. These prairies will provide early-seral habitat for culturally important wildlife species such as black-tailed deer, grouse, quail and raptors. In addition to and equally important, they will serve as traditional plant gathering sites for tribal members, provide critical habitat for species of conservation concern, and provide educational opportunities for tribal members. Funding for this proposal will also help to achieve goals and objectives set out in Washington's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy.

Tulalip Tribes of Washington (018)

\$100,668

Monitoring fish and water resources on the Tulalip Tribes Indian Reservation, Usual and Accustomed (U&A) lands and marine waters of the Pacific Northwest

The Tulalip Tribes of Western Washington plans to create, enhance and permanently protect 20 acres of wildlife foraging habitat on the Tulalip Tribe's reservation and in the North cascades for the benefit of wildlife and tribal members. Invasive plant species will be manually removed from meadow areas to ensure that forage quality remains high. Meadow areas will provide high quality foraging habitat for culturally important species for such as elk and black-tailed deer and provide critical habitat for species of conservation concern. Funding for this proposal will also help to achieve goals and objectives set out in the North Cascades Elk Herd Plan, Washington State's 2009-2015 Game Management Plan, and Washington's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy.